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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

August 15, 1947

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TO ALL STATE DIRECTORS OF EXTENSION:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #23

"Mr. Mac" Passes On. Our co-worker, E. C. McInnis, passed away at the home of his daughter at Oakdale, Louisiana, August 9. Mr. McInnis, who had been assistant south central area director stationed at Little Rock, had recovered sufficiently from the heart attack reported in my last letter, to make the trip from Little Rock to Oakdale on August 7. We know that you all join us in extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs. McInnis whose temporary address is in care of Mrs. James Cather, Oakdale, Louisiana.

Mr. McInnis, who was born at Mendenhall, Mississippi, in 1884, was a pioneer in Extension work. His 13 years service as a county agricultural agent was started on March 28, 1913 in Bolivar county, Mississippi. He also served as Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Markets, Director of the Farm Security Administration in Mississippi, and southeastern regional chief of shelter and feeding for the Labor Branch. He is survived by Mrs. McInnis, a son and daughter.

During his 29 months with the Extension Farm Labor Program, Mr. McInnis made many friends among Extension workers in the Southern and Central States. His weekly letters on farm labor needs were an important aspect of the Gulf to Great Lakes migration program. Because of his wide experience, Mr. McInnis' advice was sought on many farm labor problems. As announced in my last letter his duties have been assumed by Walter Cooper.

Passing on Ideas. With this letter supervisors are receiving a copy of Oregon's "Fighters on the Farm Front", State Supervisor Beck's report on the 1943-46 emergency farm labor program in that State. In typography, text and illustrations, it is a particularly well balanced report which tells its story in conversational style. Russ Adams did the writing. As you move ahead with your plans to produce a 4 or 5 year printed report on emergency farm labor operations in your State, it may be well to pause and study the Oregon report. It is chock full of ideas that may be helpful.

Thank you, Governor! From the State house at Topeka, Governor Frank Carlson of Kansas, on June 26 addressed a letter to W. O. Stark, assistant Extension State farm labor supervisor, in charge of the wheat harvest program at the Great Bend office. He wrote:

"Dear Mr. Stark: As the harvest is about over I want to write and express my sincere appreciation for the splendid way in which your office cooperated. Combine difficulties, box car shortages, and lastly a gasoline shortage have been real obstacles to overcome. While it is true that we have not taken care of every situation 100 percent, the State has received splendid results from your efforts. You are entitled to much credit and I want you to know I appreciate it. Sincerely yours...."

"M.C." Returning Monday. After absence since August 1, "M.C." will be back at his desk next Monday. He went to Oregon to attend the western directors meeting. Since then he has visited Montana and North Dakota.

On the Firing Line with Liaison Men. Reports to State farm labor supervisors by liaison men in the Texas Latin-American migratory movement, shed interesting light on the work these men are doing.

Minnesota: A farmer had a letter from his crew now back in Texas. At his request George Russell translated it from Spanish to English.

Wisconsin: Gordon Lansford and a representative of the sugar company in two days contacted 23 crews of Latin-Americans from Texas totalling 457 workers. They told them about the jobs as cherry and cucumber pickers that are available between sugar beet hoeing and harvesting.

Indiana: The labor requested for pickle picking in Pulaski and Starke counties has been "borrowed" from Stokley Brothers of Elwood, Indiana. Paul Moore comments: "Such fine cooperation from the major companies in this area makes it less difficult to supply labor needs on crop harvests of short duration".

North Dakota and Minnesota: Working with the manager of the American Crystal Sugar Company at East Grand Forks, Joe Derum arranged with the Northern Pacific Railroad to employ 470 Latin-Americans from Texas on track work until they are needed later in the season for field work. Joe also stopped at the Grafton hospital to make inquiries about the survivors of the tornado in that area, one had been discharged but 13 Latin-Americans were still in hospital. At Warren 12 tornado victims had been discharged but 5 were yet in the hospital. Red Cross has guaranteed funeral, hospital and medical costs and is paying sustenance to injured workers until they recover.

Nebraska: Cal Duncan was called by the North Platte police to talk to Severo Marquez, and learned that he was justly accused of indecent exposure. The police court asked that he interpret for the court the next day. The worker was fined \$14.80.

Montana and Wyoming: Jack Henderson met a truck load of Latin-Americans ready to leave the area for the State of Washington where they had worked in 1945 and 1946. They had no assurance of work and assumed conditions would be the same as in 1945-46. Jack read them the "Western Farm Labor Roundup", "Farm Jobs from Gulf to Great Lakes", and the latest "Farm Labor Report from Texas". They decided to work two weeks longer in the area and then return to Texas.

Ohio: On August 7 Tom Moon participated in a meeting including president of Ohio Council of Churches, sugar beet company representatives, a tomato canner, a Latin-American crew leader, State Supervisor Dowdy and the local county agent. This group discussed housing, health and community acceptance problems relating to Latin-American migrants from Texas. Moon reports: "Great strides are appearing in the improved relations between workers and employers".

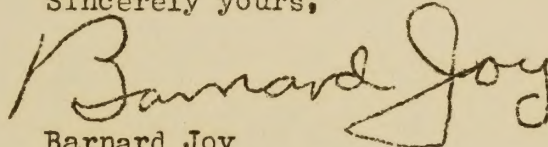
Colorado: A Latin-American contacted Frank Binkley to tell him that he was unable to collect his money for hoeing beets from a Prospect Valley farmer. Frank and the labor assistant visited the farmer and found that the worker had left at night and did not ask for his money. The farmer assured them that the Latin-American would get his pay when he came for it.

Michigan: William Yeager reports that there are very few complaints from Latin-American workers that cannot be solved. "99% of troubles are due to misunderstandings, which are cleared up when both sides have been presented properly".

Nebraska-Wyoming: Here are some excerpts from just two days of Carl Davenport's reports: "Sunday--Received several letters from workers who had gone to Ohio and Michigan asking me to see the farmer they worked for here and tell him to hold a house for them because they will be back for beet topping.....At the baseball game today between the American boys or Bayard and Texas-American beet workers, I was umpire and called all plays in Spanish and English. Close decisions had to be explained over the loud speaker to Mexican fans in the grandstand. This baseball game is one of my best contacts. The Texas people know I will be there and bring their troubles to me. I explain how beets are measured, how and why of certain deductions, etc. Monday--Settled several misunderstandings between farmers and workers...nothing serious. Was handed several sums of money to forward to families of workers...Got a case of chicken pox to the doctor...Temporarily talked a Mexican woman out of shooting her husband. She just couldn't see these 'extra curricular' activities. If the old fellow realizes his mistakes, he may live to top our beets yet...Nothing much else to report today." Then Davenport adds: "Routine...routine...over and over, gets a little dull sometimes".

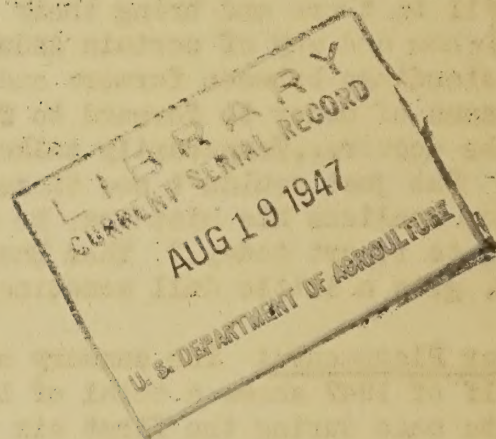
Farm Labor Placements: The summary of Extension farm labor placements for the first half of 1947 shows a total of 1,194,668, which is 89.7% of the 1,331,272 placements made during the first six months of 1946. Placements of women were larger than during the comparable period in 1946, while placements of men and youth were smaller. However, the decline in youth placements was only slight, less than 2%, while the drop in placements of men exceeded 15%.

Sincerely yours,



Barnard Joy
Acting Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

Enclosure to Supervisors
copy to State Farm Labor Supervisors



[Handwritten signature]

Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure to Bureau
Copy to Bureau and Field Division